



Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2003

Natural soda ash production in June was 878,000 metric tons (t), about 5% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 255,000 t, 14% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June was 1.11 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in May was 523,000 t, slightly lower than the May 2002 level of 524,000 t. Exports

and imports of soda ash in May 2003 were 340,000 t and 662 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through May 2003, compared with those of 2002, were as follows: production was 3% higher, imports 28% lower, exports 5% higher, ending stocks 41% higher, and apparent consumption 3% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2002:			
May	917	212	1,330
June	842	236	1,130
July	898	227	956
August	895	226	1,260
September	853	228	1,260
October	870	213	1,150
November	877	201	1,310
December	963	222	1,460
Total (January-June)	5,100	XX	7,760
Year total	10,500	XX	15,100
2003:			
January	867	278	1,470
February	820	251	1,240
March	897	263	1,410
April	865	234	1,320
May	926	298	1,340
June	878	255	1,110
Total	5,250	XX	7,890

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN MAY 2003^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Indonesia	42,000	\$5,070	\$121
China	35,100	3,400	97
Canada	28,900	2,220	77
Brazil	26,000	3,420	131
Japan	24,300	2,730	112
Colombia	23,100	4,020	174
Mexico	23,000	2,530	110
Malaysia	19,000	2,540	134
Saudi Arabia	16,000	1,280	80
Argentina	15,000	1,990	133
Other	88,000	10,800	123
Total	340,000	40,000	118

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²June 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2003^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	Total	% of total
Argentina	11,000	--	26,000	11,300	15,000	63,300	4
Australia	27,400	6,600	38	17,000	6,000	57,100	3
Bahamas, The	--	--	9	--	--	9	(3)
Belgium	16,300	15,500	4,850	35,900	10,200	82,800	5
Belize	--	--	--	18	--	18	(3)
Brazil	32,000	--	28,200	26,400	26,000	113,000	6
Canada	38,100	29,800	38,500	33,700	28,900	169,000	9
Chile	10	36,400	--	32,600	--	69,000	4
China	37,900	18,300	38,300	--	35,100	130,000	7
Colombia	12,400	11,500	10,600	--	23,100	57,600	3
Costa Rica	--	3,000	2,990	49	--	6,040	(3)
Ecuador	4,500	--	--	--	9,030	13,500	1
Finland	--	--	17	--	--	17	(3)
France	7,500	--	9,950	--	7,510	25,000	1
Germany	--	--	--	--	20	20	(3)
Guatemala	--	3,000	2,970	--	--	5,970	(3)
Indonesia	17,200	14,500	31,900	--	42,000	106,000	6
Italy	--	--	--	16	56	72	(3)
Japan	41,700	26,200	35,300	18,500	24,300	146,000	8
Korea, Republic of	13,800	15,500	20,000	23,000	3,300	75,600	4
Malaysia	--	16,500	10,000	5,000	19,000	50,500	3
Mexico	53,500	52,100	34,300	52,500	23,000	215,000	12
Netherlands	10,000	--	10,200	--	110	20,300	1
Netherlands Antilles	11	--	--	--	--	11	(3)
Nigeria	--	--	3,430	--	--	3,430	(3)
Panama	--	1,500	--	--	4,010	5,510	(3)
Peru	--	3,000	--	4,800	--	7,800	(3)
Philippines	8,500	8,000	--	8,000	10,600	35,100	2
Portugal	--	--	--	10,000	--	10,000	1
Russia	--	--	--	8	1,210	1,220	(3)
Saudi Arabia	14,000	--	16,000	--	16,000	46,000	3
South Africa	650	8,900	6,520	--	6,430	22,500	1
Spain	15,000	25,000	--	10,900	14,500	65,400	4
Taiwan	9,790	13,300	15,000	17,500	--	55,600	3
Thailand	20,000	10,000	8,400	13,000	10,000	61,400	3
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	2,800	--	2,800	(3)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	6,000	--	5,000	11,000	1
United Kingdom	6,250	--	--	--	1	6,250	(3)
Venezuela	--	--	16,000	26,600	--	42,600	2
Vietnam	150	8,100	--	--	--	8,250	(3)
Total	398,000	327,000	375,000	350,000	340,000	1,790,000	100

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²June 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2002:		
May	991	\$216
June	639	118
July	779	181
August	538	152
September	837	202
October	1,020	220
November	666	134
December	384	116
Total (January-May)	4,160	872
Year total	9,020	2,000
2003:		
January	615	135
February	375	133
March	540	165
April	784	145
May	662	165
Total	2,980	743

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²June 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

³Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2002:						
May	917,000	991	384,000	9,800	--	524,000
June	842,000	639	329,000	23,600	--	489,000
July	898,000	779	364,000	--	8,580	543,000
August	895,000	538	306,000	--	1,610	592,000
September	853,000	837	370,000	2,410	--	481,000
October	870,000	1,020	332,000	--	14,700	554,000
November	877,000	666	430,000	--	12,100	460,000
December	963,000	384	416,000	20,400	--	527,000
Total (January-May)	4,260,000	4,160	1,700,000	--	14,100	2,580,000
Year total	10,500,000	9,020	4,250,000	--	4,620	6,230,000
2003:						
January	867,000	615	398,000	56,700	--	413,000
February	820,000	375	327,000	--	27,200	521,000
March	897,000	540	375,000	11,500	--	510,000
April	865,000	784	350,000	--	28,300	545,000
May	926,000	662	340,000	63,900	--	523,000
June	878,000	NA	NA	--	43,300	NA
January-May	4,380,000	2,980	1,790,000	76,600	--	2,510,000

NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.